



# CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Wednesday, April 7, 2004**

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## **The City Receives Tree City USA Growth Award for its 26<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year**

FALLS CHURCH, VA. – The National Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, awarded the City with its 26<sup>th</sup> consecutive Tree City USA designation, the only city in the Commonwealth to accomplish this achievement. The City also received its second Growth Award designation that recognizes environmental improvement and encourages higher levels of tree care. This year the City implemented a computerized tree inventory of all its publicly maintained trees and linked it to their GIS.

To qualify for a Tree City USA designation, the City met the four standards of having a viable tree management plan and program, which includes an Arbor Day Observance, a tree care ordinance, a tree board or commission, and maintaining a budget inclusive of tree care.

The City has celebrated Arbor Day on the third Friday in April since 1892 when the Falls Church Village Improvement Society invited Dr. B.G. Northrop of Connecticut (the “Johnny Apple seed” of Arbor Day) to give a speech in the building that is now the Women’s Club. Dr. Northrop proposed that the City inaugurate an Arbor Day in April to include the school children and to replant the public school yard, which is now Frady Park that had just been destroyed by a powerful storm. To this day, trees are planted on all of the City’s public school grounds. Recently, a public celebration has been added for Saturday to accommodate working families and to provide a historic setting in Frady Park. Each year, the Victorian Society reenacts the City Council meeting when Arbor Day was first proclaimed in Falls Church City 111 years ago.

This year’s Arbor Day celebration will be held Saturday, April 17, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. in Frady Park located on West Broad Street between Noland and North Cherry Streets in the City. Arbor Day events for City Public Schools will be held Friday, April 16 and Monday, April 19, 2004.

For more information regarding Arbor Day events in the City or Tree City USA, please contact the City Arborist at 703-248-5183.

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